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FOREWORD

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PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE UKRAINE AT A NEW STAGE

(Following is a translation of an unsigned article in the Russian-language newspaper Meditsinskiy rabotnik (Medical Worker), Moscow, Vol. XXIII, No. 50, 21 June 1960, page 2.)

Over a thousand public health organizers, medical scientists, practical doctors, representatives of the party, of the soviets, of the professional unions, of social organizations, of the Councils of National Economy, of the sovkhozes and kolkhozes, met in Kiev for the republican meeting of active members of the public health service of the Ukraine.

P. L. Shupik, Minister of Public Health of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, gave a report on the progress of the fulfillment of the resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CC CPSU) and the Council of Ministers USSR, and the resolution of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party (CC UkrCP) and the Council of Ministers Ukrainian SSR on measures for the further improvement of medical facilities and the protection of the health of the general public. The speaker brought forth examples testifying to the everyday concern of the Communist Party and of the Soviet Government for the protection of the health of the people.

Almost 76,000 doctors and 255,000 medium-level medical workers work in the preventive (prophylactic) medical establishments in the Ukraine. More than 400 doctors and 2,800 candidates in the medical sciences are working in the medical and scientific research institutes of the republic. There is now an average of one doctor for every 563 inhabitants. In one year the Soviet Government has increased the number of hospital beds in the Ukrainian SSR sixfold and provided 319,000 (7.5 beds for every thousand people).

In spite of the noteworthy increase in the number of sick beds, there are still not enough of them for the timely hospitalization of the sick, especially if one considers the fact that doctors carrying out the dispensary method of service are more and more often resorting to hospitalization for purposes of the prevention of certain diseases. This is why it was outlined in the Seven-Year Plan to set up 116,500 additional beds. However, the funds allotted for the building of public health establishments are still being used most unsatisfactorily. During the past 10 years 580,000 rubles were left unassimilated. The monetary funds for this year are also insufficiently assimilated. About 395,300,000 rubles were appropriated for the whole year; of this only 33 percent was assimilated during the past 5 months. The situation is

especially bad in the Zhitomirskaya, Zakarpatskaya, Zaporozhskaya, Kirovogradskaya, L'vovskaya, Odesskaya, Stalinskaya, and Poltavskaya oblasts.

Leaders of health departments and of medical establishments must constantly control the building of public health establishments, regardless of the sources they are financed from.

The speaker and the participants of the meeting discussed in their speeches the necessity of enlarging the city hospitals faster. According to the participants of the meeting, all city hospitals must have 300 - 400 - 600 beds apiece. This must be done by building separate buildings, and also by re-equipping buildings released by local soviets to the supervision of public health agencies.

By the decision of the CC UkCP and the Council of Ministers Ukrainian SSR, the improvement of specialized aid to the people is planned for the future. Two hundred laryngological and a like number of eye departments in the hospitals will be organized in all rural and rayon centers. The network of antituberculosis, obstetrician-gynaecological, oncological, stomatological, psychoneurological, children's, and other establishments is showing a considerable increase. In the large stationary hospitals and in the polyclinics cardiological and rheumatic departments and offices will be founded.

Great tasks lie before us. In connection with these tasks, possible mistakes were pointed out. Hero of Socialist Labor, Professor N. A. Pychkovskaya; Professor N. M. Amosov; Professor I. T. Shevchenko; the head of the Chernovitskaya Oblast Health Department, V. V. Gusak; and others said that eye, phthisiological, laryngological, and other specialized departments with a small number of beds (10-15) are not proving their value. It is impossible for them to provide experienced personnel and the latest equipment.

According to the participants of the meeting, it is necessary to establish in rural areas large inter-rayon specialized hospitals or branches with 25-30 beds in each rayon hospital.

At the meeting much attention was given to questions of the improvement of polyclinical facilities for city dwellers and those working in industrial enterprises. The construction of new and the expansion of present polyclinics stands before us; regions must be subdivided considerably.

The existing municipal departments are not fully manned by doctors. In the cities almost 1,500 posts for department therapists and more than 400 posts for pediatricians are not being used for their immediate purpose. In this regard things are going especially badly in the cities of the Volynskaya, Dnepropetrovskaya, L'vovskaya, and Stanislavskaya oblasts. Meanwhile they are providing medical personnel that are no worse than others. The main thing is their correct placement and utilization.

Characteristic in this regard is the statement of the chief doctor of the Fourteenth Dnepropetrovsk City Hospital, A. V. Kirilenko. In the hospital they have simplified the handling of medical

documentation and registration and as a result relieved the doctors of 15 percent of their working time. The combination of specialties is also widely practiced in the hospital: therapists have mastered laboratory methods and instrumental diagnostics, and surgeons X-ray research. Every nurse can work in the office of the polyclinic, in the ward, in the physiotherapy and treatment office, and many in operations too.

Unfortunately, the oblast health department and the Ministry of Public Health of the Republic are weakly disseminating progressive forms and methods of medical service for the people.

In their speeches A. T. Shlykov, director of the Cherkasskaya Oblast health department; B. F. Zubko, chief of the medical-sanitation section of the "Red Star" mine of the "Chistyakovatratsit" trust; L. Ye. Yesipenko, chairman of the republican committee of the trade union of medical workers; and others spoke on the insufficient attention of the Ministry as regards the dissemination of progressive testing.

The medical men of the Ukraine have achieved much progress in services to the workers. From year to year sickness and injury have been lowered in industrial projects. In the republic hundreds of medical-sanitation units are serving — almost 1,500 medical units and close to 4,000 auxiliary health points. Many of them have made a splendid showing.

But there is a great deficiency in facilities for workers. As regards factories, the posts of department physicians are not completely filled, the doctors poorly analyze the causes of the prevalence of disease and injury and pay little attention to questions of the hygiene and physiology of work and to industrial sanitation. Many territorial hospitals have not organized preferential services for workers.

Big changes have taken place during recent years in health protection in rural areas. Now the overwhelming majority of rayon centers have 10 or more specialists. The number of specialized departments grows with every year and the results of medical service to the workers in rural areas improves. However, the enlargement of rayon and regional hospitals is still coming about slowly. During the Seven-Year Plan the number of beds in rayon hospitals must be brought up to 100-120, and in regional hospitals to 25-30.

The kolkhozes are giving much aid in the construction of medical and children's establishments. In the past year they have built 197 regional hospitals, 885 children's day nurseries, 152 kolkhoz maternity homes, and 160 surgical-obstetrical points with their own resources and with their own funds. The collective farmers of Cherkasskaya Oblast performed remarkable feats with regard to this huge undertaking. During the past 3 years they have built more than 300 children's establishments and 24 regional hospitals.

The speech of V. A. Savchuk, Hero of Socialist Labor, deputy to the Supreme Soviet Ukrainian SSR, and chairman of the "Dawn of Communism" kolkhoz of Novoselitskiy Rayon of Chernovitskaya Oblast, was received with great attention. The members of the kolkhoz have built a hospital, a permanent day nursery, a sanatorium, bath houses, a radio relay center, and a barn and bought an X-ray machine with their own monies, have organized their own Pioneers' camp, have built up their village and planted trees and shrubs around it.

A. S. Titenko, leader of the Krymskaya Oblast Department of Public Health; the chief physician of the Veliko-Bagachanskiy Rayon of Poltavskaya Oblast; and others spoke about the wide scope of the construction of medical and children's establishments from the funds of the kolkhozes.

The struggle against infectious diseases remains one of the current problems of urban and rural medical workers.

There still is insufficient sanitary protection of reservoirs, of the atmospheric air and the soil. Agencies of sanitary control must raise their demands to industrial leaders. It is still necessary to develop a popular movement for a high level of sanitary affairs and a wider building up and beautifying of urban and rural areas.

Many legal claims were brought forth addressed to the doctors of the Ukraine at the meeting. They are slowly seeking effective ways of fighting against grip, tonsillitis, children's infectious diseases, cancer, and cardiovascular pathology. Problems of the hygiene and physiology of work are being worked out weakly, especially as concerns women and young people working in the various branches of industry. There are also many unsolved questions in the area of industrial sanitation.

Professor G. A. Miterev, chairman of the executive committee of the Union of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, devoted his speech to questions of the training of sanitation personnel. He presented the Red Banner to V. A. Panchenko, chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the Ukrainian SSR. It was awarded to the republic for the results of the work of the past year.

Professors M. I. Koloniychenko, D. R. Chebotarev, L. T. Malaya, and others — altogether more than 30 people — spoke at the conference.

Professor I. G. Kochergin, deputy to the Ministry of Health USSR, having noted in his speech the immense amount of work performed by the scientists and practical doctors of the Ukraine, seriously criticized the deficiencies in their work and showed the means for their elimination.

O. I. Ivashchenko, Secretary of the CC UkCP, gave a long speech at the conference.

M. S. Grechukh, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers Ukrainian SSR, and V. V. Zolotukhin, deputy head of the department of the CC CPSU, took part in the work of the conference.

The participants of the conference heard the appeal to all medical workers of the republic, which called upon them to fulfill with honor the program drawn up by the party and the government for the further development of the Soviet public health service. Having assembled with great enthusiasm, they heard a salutatory letter from the CC CPSU and the CC UkCP.

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